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NOTES ON THE OCCUPANCY OF SHELTERS DURING ATTACK BY  
V.1 WEAPONS ON LONDON - 1944

HOME OFFICE.

CSA RECORDS  
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For the purposes of the assessment to be carried out by the Civil Defence Joint Planning Staff's Working Party on the effects of a heavy air attack on London it was desirable to obtain some basis for estimating the number of people who might be expected to take shelter in the event of attack by V.1 weapons.

No survey having this particular aim had been carried out but some of the data collected during a survey in the Borough of Wandsworth (1944) to determine the effectiveness of various types of shelter against V.1 attack offered some chance of arriving at a reasonable conclusion. The survey extended over the period 18th June 1944 to 28th August 1944, included approximately 100 incidents and involved the examinations of about 200 Morrison shelters, 700 Anderson shelters, 50 brick surface shelters and also some miscellaneous types. Only shelters within 170 ft. of the explosion were examined and the data is confined to such cases.

Of the 100 incidents investigated by the survey team 57 of them gave rise to reports on 428 Anderson shelters which were accepted for present purposes. The reports cover incidents whenever they occurred in the 24 hours.

The number of people to whom these shelters were accessible amounted to 1,471. The numbers who sheltered or remained in the houses were 853 and 618 respectively. Thus the percentage who took shelter was 58%. These figures confirm a previous estimate based on this data although the method of working could not be traced. The previous estimate referred to was expressed as follows:-

**Anderson Shelters:-**

Occupancy during daylight hours  
(0600 hours to 23.00 hours). 48%.  
Occupancy during night hours 69%.

**Morrison Shelters:-**

Occupancy during daylight hours 69%.  
Occupancy during night hours 76%.

Underground Stores + Tunnels.  
Tube Stations + Shelters. General.

RE/B 62/5/1

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(R.R. Welch)

10th September 1948

# PUBLIC SHELTER OCCUPANCY

<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Bunks installed</u>	<u>EAST</u>		<u>Public Shelters</u>	
		<u>Occupants</u>		<u>On dates between</u>	
		<u>On 26/6/44</u>	<u>On 25/9/44</u>	<u>17/12/44 &amp; 7/1/45</u>	
Bedditch	13,903	5,595	1,598	932	(27/12/44)
Dagenham	3,984	1,000	120	24	(17/12/44)
Hackney	13,467	11,624	4,427	1,535	(22/12/44)
East Ham	3,939	2,078	1,073	874	(18/12/44)
Stepney	22,898	16,915	4,762	3,769	(27/12/44)
Wanstead	2,385	1,819	945	484	(1/1/45)
Leyton	7,144	4,894	1,959	1,471	(18/12/44)
	67,720	43,925	14,884	9,089	

<u>NORTH</u>					
Enfield	5,574	1,705	384	64	(20/12/44)
Potters Bar	522	92	63	75	(19/12/44)
Elstree	528	1	nil	nil	(27/12/44)
Friern Barnet	553	387	47	105	(20/12/44)
Islington	17,085	18,676	2,770	2,000	(7/1/45)
Hendon	7,677	2,621	364	223	(18/12/44)
	31,939	23,482	3,628	2,467	

<u>WEST</u>					
Staines	1,023	982	88	49	(18/12/44)
Heston	8,178	5,362	987	314	(20/12/44)
	9,201	6,344	1,075	363	

<u>NORTH WEST</u>					
Willesden	9,135	4,257	640	371	(18/12/44)
Ruislip	2,631	936	17	nil	(26/12/44)
	11,766	5,193	657	371	

<u>SOUTH</u>					
Woolwich	4,929	3,919	1,413	1,457	(18/12/44)
Wandsworth	21,862	17,701	3,876	1,859	(21/12/44)
Southwark	8,871	21,834	5,450	2,789	(22/12/44)
Chislehurst Caves	10,000	10,000	1,846	1,800	(3/1/44)
	45,662	43,454	12,585	7,905	

<b>Total</b>	166,288	122,398	32,829	20,195
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Capacity of  
bunks used

74%

20%

12%

**PUBLIC SHELTERS  
(CAVES & TUBES)**

SHELTER USAGE

**(UNDERGROUND RAILROAD  
IN LONDON)**

	Before Fly Bombs	at height of Fly Bombs	Present Time	
Bermondsey	823	11,960	4,780	
Deptford	-	4,429	2,489	
Greenwich	447	3,879	1,615	
Lewisham	209	6,745	2,090	
Woolwich	183	4,926	1,509	
Total Group 4	4,215	31,939	12,483	39%
Barking	163	1,769	694	
Chigwell	6	669	140	
Chingford	-	1,075	227	
Dagenham	-	797	66	
East Ham	300	2,251	1,019	
Ilford	522	3,165	853	
Leyton	-	4,600	1,834	
Waltham Holy Cross	Nil	93	8	
Walthamstow	1,400	3,913	1,708	
Wanstead	104	1,868	621	
West Ham	1,300	8,035	2,974	
Total Group 7		28,235	10,144	36%
Finsbury	-	9,500	1,374	
Holborn	159	4,210	417	
St. Pancras	228	12,700	1,791	
Orpington	-	500	100	
Barnes	Nil	400	100	
Malden & Coombe	-	1,100	100	
Croydon	1,500	9,800	2,290	
Wandsworth	1,050	34,381	3,372	
Coulsdon	-	500	65	
Stepney	-	25,000	7,000	
Total Misc.		98,091	16,609	17%
British Museum	106	565	175	
Kentish Town Disused	65	1,280	440	
Southwark Deep	866	6,042	1,435	
West Ham Tunnel		1,813	520	
West Down "		1,200	385	
Gainsboro' "		1,539	574	
Bethnal Green Tunnel	854	4,170	2,150	
Liverpool Street "	672	930	782	
Aldwych	285	1,346	498	
Deep Shelters (Inner) Total		18,885	6,959	37%
Chislehurst Caves		10,000	1,900	
Surrey Tunnels				
(Riddlesdown	850	1,700	500	
(Brighton Road	Nil	600	20	
(Epsom Downs	Nil	400	25	
(Ashley Road	Nil	250	20	
Deep Shelters (Outer) Total		12,950	2,465	19%
Running Tubes	7,716	73,611	15,968	22%
New Tubes	-	10,727	5,998	56%
		84,338	21,966	26%

15th November, 1944.  
Copied 18/12/45 - LH.